

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2, 5-9, 11, 12, 15, 16, 18, 24, 26, 27, and 29-36 are pending. All claims have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

In particular, the Office Action asserts that the claims as amended include the following limitations for which there is no support in the specification and claims as originally filed:

- The member is a “film web”
- The member is stretched “biaxially” at “atmospheric temperature” to increase its length “and width”
- The member is relaxed “transverse to said longitudinal stretching direction”

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections, because each of these limitations has clear support in the specification. With regard to “film web”, the specification repeatedly refers to the plastics material member being “a film, fibre or filament. See, for example: p. 2, line 25; p. 3, lines 3, 11, 22; p. 4, lines 7-9; etc. While “film web” is recited in some of the claims whereas the specification refers merely to “film”, persons of ordinary skill in the art would understand the two terms to mean the same thing. Thus, “film web” is clearly supported in the specification.

However, if the Examiner continues to believe that “film web” is not supported, Applicant hereby authorizes the Examiner to amend the claims by Examiner’s Amendment to delete “web” throughout the claims.

Regarding the other limitations noted above, the specification at page 8, lines 31-32, and page 9, lines 2-7, states as follows (emphasis added):

“The processes of this invention may be achieved by ‘cold’ (i.e. **atmospheric temperature**) stretching and relaxation or it may be conducted in some cases by first heating the film, fibre or filament.

“While the invention has been described herein as requiring stretching of the film in one direction beyond its yield point and at least partially relaxing in the same direction, the invention does include within its scope **biaxial** stretching. The stretching may occur simultaneously in two directions or may be stretched sequentially in **two perpendicular directions**. **The at least partial relaxation may also occur simultaneously or sequentially in the two directions.**”

This clearly teaches that the stretching (and relaxing) can occur both in the longitudinal direction as described in detail in the specification, as well as the direction perpendicular thereto, which is the transverse or width direction. It is clearly taught that the stretching can occur at atmospheric temperature. Furthermore, as to the increase in width of the film, stretching of the film in the transverse or width direction must necessarily result in an increase in width of the film, as persons skilled in the art would understand.

For these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the limitations pointed out in the Office Action are clearly supported by explicit text in the specification as originally filed. Therefore, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, are erroneous and should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

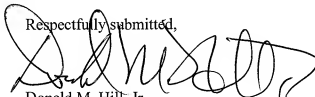
Based on the above remarks, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of

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this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald M. Hill, Jr.", written over the typed name.

Donald M. Hill, Jr.
Registration No. 40,646

Customer No. 00826
ALSTON & BIRD LLP
Bank of America Plaza
101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000
Charlotte, NC 28280-4000
Tel Charlotte Office (704) 444-1000
Fax Charlotte Office (704) 444-1111

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